

Annual Crime Trends Report 2013-2022

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COLORADO
Division of Criminal Justice
Department of Public Safety

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Executive Summary

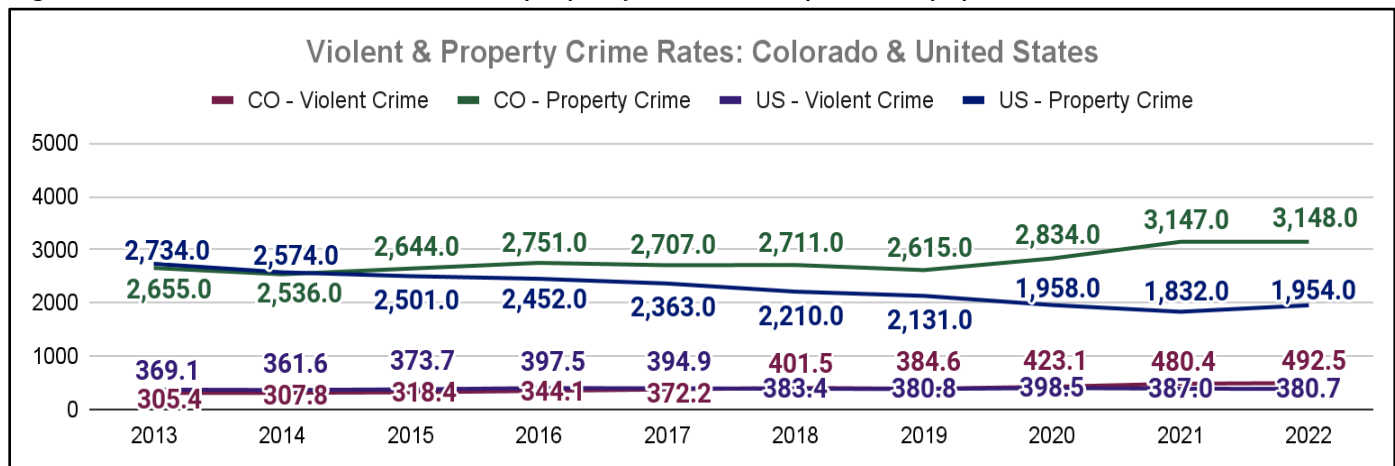
Violent and property crime rates in Colorado have consistently outpaced the United States (US) crime rates, particularly motor vehicle thefts (MVT) which had a 231% increase from 2013 to 2022 compared to the US's increase of 28% during the same timeframe (Table 1). Colorado crime rates overall have steadily increased over the past decade (2013-2022) while the US crime rates overall have steadily decreased (Figure 1).¹

Table 1. US and Colorado crime rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

	CO - 2013	CO - 2022	CO % Change*	US - 2013	US - 2022	US % Change
Violent Crime	305.4	492.5	61%	369.1	380.7	3%
Homicide	3.3	6.4	94%	4.5	6.3	40%
Rape	56.2	63.4	13%	35.9	40.0	11%
Robbery	59.5	72.6	22%	109.0	66.1	-39%
Aggravated Assault	186.4	350.1	88%	229.6	268.2	17%
Property Crime	2655.0	3148.0	19%	2734.0	1954.0	-29%
Burglary	475.6	395.2	-17%	610.5	269.8	-56%
Larceny/Theft	1941.8	1966.7	1%	1901.9	1401.9	-26%
Motor Vehicle Theft	237.6	785.7	231%	221.3	282.7	28%
Arson	16.2	23.7	46%	14.9	11.6	-22%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 1. US. and Colorado violent and property crime rates per 100K population, 2013-2022.



¹ The source for all data in tables and figures in this report is: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime Data Explorer* (retrieved November 15, 2023).

Background

The crime data used throughout this report were acquired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) [Crime Data Explorer](#) (CDE) portal on November 15, 2023. The offense definitions provided throughout this report are those presented in the most recent FBI [Crime in the United States Report \[2019\]](#). The data was collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which has been transitioning to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) from its previous summary reporting system over the past decade. The most recent two years of national data used in this report are estimates produced by the FBI based in part on incomplete reporting from states that have not fully transitioned to NIBRS.

NIBRS collects more comprehensive data, including segmenting attempted and completed offenses for all involved offenses, not just the most serious offenses. This provides a more robust summary of crimes compared to the UCR summary method (see more information about [the transition from UCR to NIBRS](#)).

Violent Crimes

Violent crime “is composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault ... that involve force or threat of force.”

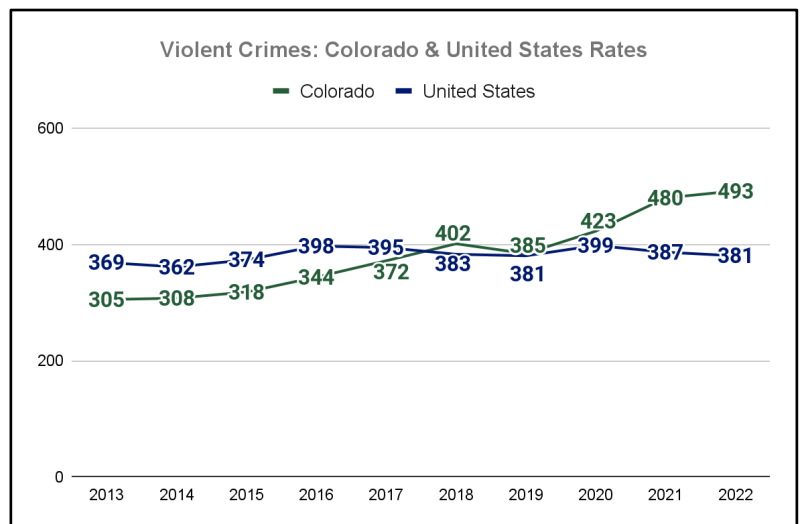
The violent crime rate in Colorado increased by 61% from 2013 (305.4 per 100K population) to 2022 (492.5) (Table 2; an alternate representation of these data is in Figure 2.). In comparison, the national violent crime rate increased by 3% from 2013 (369.1) to 2022 (380.7). Violent crimes in Colorado have steadily increased over the past 10 years (2013-2022), with a 14% increase from 2020 to 2021. In contrast, the national rate has remained relatively stable. Colorado’s rate (401.5) surpassed the national rate (383.4) in 2018 and continued to increase, with 2022 having the highest rate in the past decade (492.5). For reference purposes, Appendix Tables A & B at the end of this report display the number of violent crimes per year.

Table 2. US and Colorado violent crime rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	305.4	-	369.1	
2014	307.8	1%	361.6	-2%
2015	318.4	3%	373.7	3%
2016	344.1	8%	397.5	6%
2017	372.2	8%	394.9	-1%
2018	401.5	8%	383.4	-3%
2019	384.6	-4%	380.8	-1%
2020	423.1	10%	398.5	5%
2021	480.4	14%	387.0	-3%
2022	492.5	3%	380.7	-2%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 2. US and Colorado violent crime rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Homicide

Homicide, which includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, is defined as the “willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.”

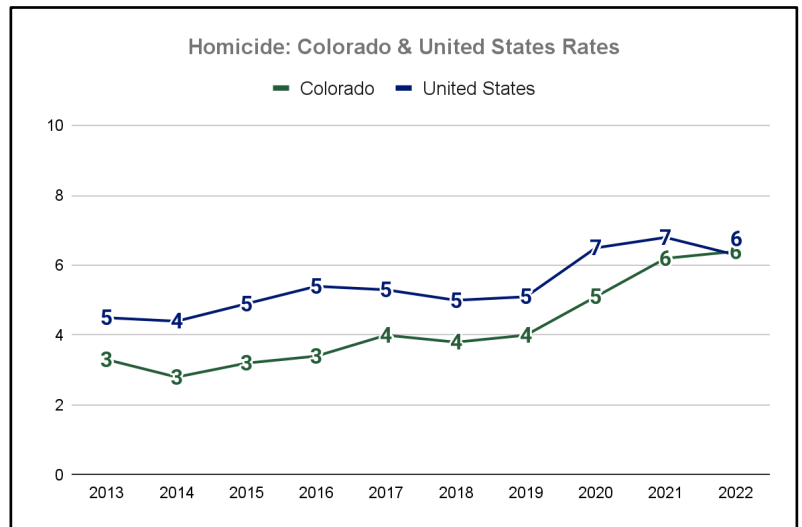
Homicide rates in Colorado and the US have steadily increased over the past decade (2013-2022) (Table 3 and Figure 3). The homicide rate in Colorado increased by 94% from 2013 (3.3) to 2022 (6.4), while the US rate increased by 40% from 2013 (4.5) to 2022 (6.3). In 2022, Colorado and US homicide rates were nearly the same, but this rate represents a 3% increase for Colorado and a 7% decrease for the US. Homicide rates are comparatively low, meaning that even small changes in the number can result in a large percent change.

Table 3. US and Colorado homicide rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	3.3	-	4.5	-
2014	2.8	-15%	4.4	-2%
2015	3.2	14%	4.9	11%
2016	3.4	6%	5.4	10%
2017	4.0	18%	5.3	-2%
2018	3.8	-5%	5.0	-6%
2019	4.0	5%	5.1	2%
2020	5.1	28%	6.5	27%
2021	6.2	22%	6.8	5%
2022	6.4	3%	6.3	-7%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 3. US and Colorado homicide rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Note: Lines represent exact values. Rounded numbers are placed in the display for ease of viewing.

Rape

Rape is defined as “penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person” without consent. “Attempts or assaults to commit rape are included ... however, statutory rape and incest are excluded.”

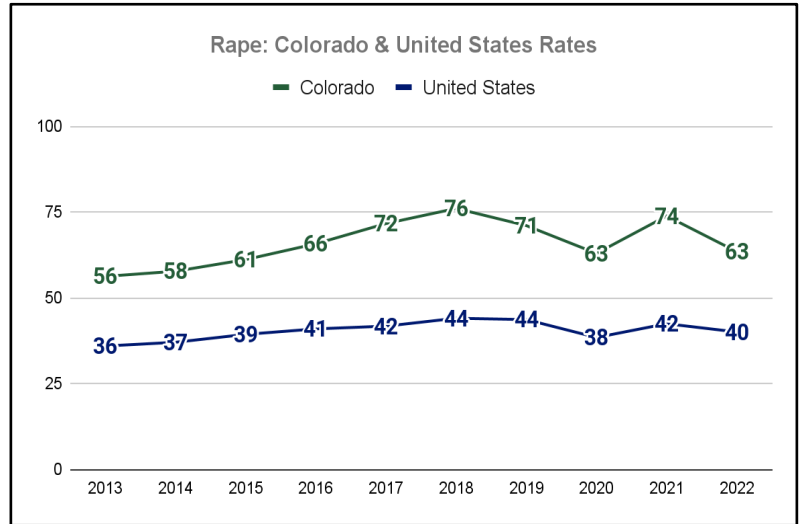
The crime rate per 100K population for rape in Colorado increased by 13% from 2013 (56.2) to 2022 (63.4), and the US rate increased by 11% from 2013 (35.9) to 2022 (40.0) (Table 4 and Figure 4). From 2013 to 2018, the Colorado rate was steadily increasing while the national rate remained relatively stable. In 2020, both Colorado and national rates decreased, but both increased in 2021 and then decreased again in 2022.

Table 4. US and Colorado rape rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	56.2	-	35.9	
2014	57.7	3%	37.0	3%
2015	61.1	6%	39.3	6%
2016	65.7	8%	40.9	4%
2017	71.6	9%	41.7	2%
2018	76.0	6%	44.0	6%
2019	71.0	-7%	43.6	-1%
2020	62.9	-11%	38.4	-12%
2021	73.8	17%	42.4	10%
2022	63.4	-14%	40.0	-6%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 4. US and Colorado rape rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Robbery

Robbery is defined as “the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or...fear.”

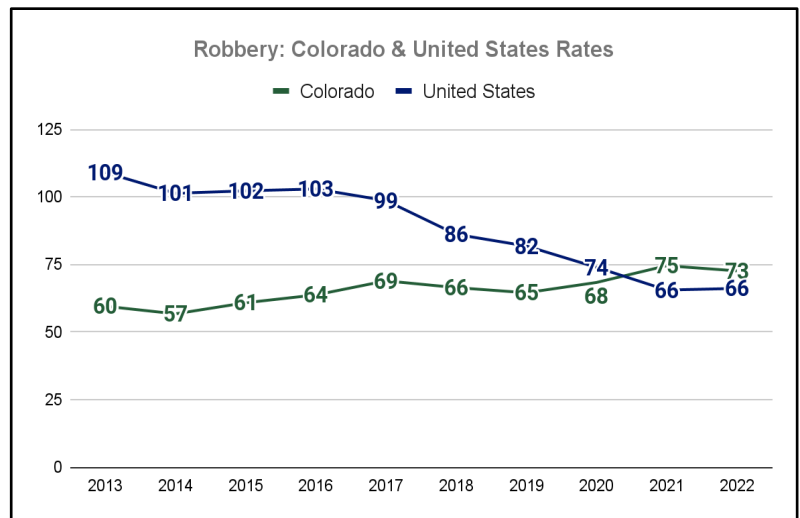
The robbery rate in Colorado increased by 22% from 2013 (59.5) to 2022 (72.6), while the US rate decreased by 39% from 2013 (109.0) to 2022 (66.1) (Table 5 and Figure 5). The robbery rate has steadily increased in Colorado over the past decade (2013-2022) while the US rate has steadily decreased during the same time frame. The robbery rate in Colorado (74.5) surpassed the US rate (65.5) in 2021 and again in 2022.

Table 5. US and Colorado robbery rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	59.5	-	109.0	-
2014	56.7	-5%	101.3	-7%
2015	60.8	7%	102.2	1%
2016	63.7	5%	102.9	1%
2017	68.9	8%	98.6	-4%
2018	66.4	-4%	86.1	-13%
2019	64.5	-3%	81.8	-5%
2020	68.3	6%	73.9	-10%
2021	74.5	9%	65.5	-11%
2022	72.6	-3%	66.1	1%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 5. US and Colorado robbery rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Aggravated Assault

Aggravated assault is defined as “an unlawful attack by one person upon another to inflict severe or aggravated bodily injury ... this type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempted aggravated assault that involves the display of—or threat to use—a gun, knife, or other weapon is included in this crime category because serious personal injury would likely result if the assault were completed. When aggravated assault and larceny/theft occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery.”

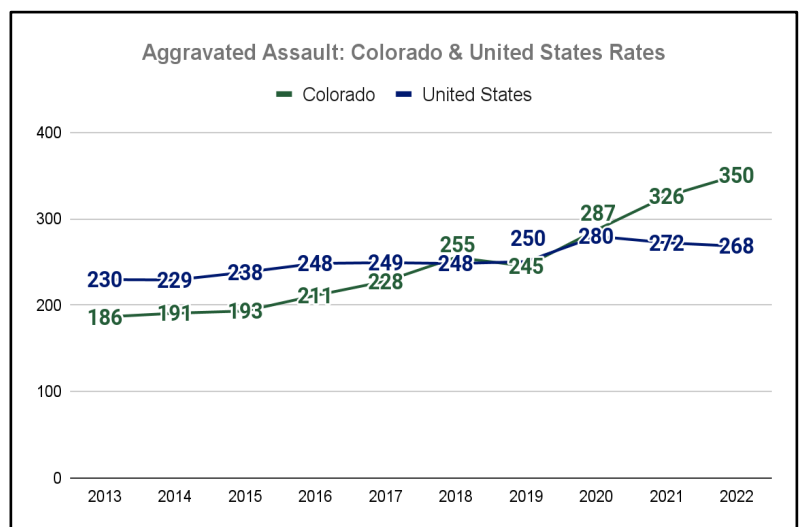
Aggravated assault rates in Colorado increased by 88% from 2013 (186.4) to 2022 (350.1), and the US rate increased by 17% from 2013 (229.6) to 2022 (268.2) (Table 6 and Figure 6). The rate in Colorado has been steadily increasing over the past decade (2013-2022) while the rate in the US has been relatively stable. The rate in Colorado (255.2) surpassed the US rate (248.2) in 2018, and then again in 2020 with a rate of 286.9 and 279.7 per 100K population, respectively; Colorado has exceeded the national rate for the last two years.

Table 6. US and Colorado robbery rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	186.4	-	229.6	-
2014	190.7	2%	229.2	-0.2%
2015	193.3	1%	238.1	4%
2016	211.2	9%	248.3	4%
2017	227.7	8%	249.2	0.4%
2018	255.2	12%	248.2	-0.4%
2019	245.2	-4%	250.4	1%
2020	286.9	17%	279.7	12%
2021	326.0	14%	272.2	-3%
2022	350.1	7%	268.2	-1%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 6. US and Colorado aggravated assault rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Property Crimes

Property crime includes “burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims. The property crime category includes arson because the offense involves the destruction of property; however, arson victims may be subjected to force.”

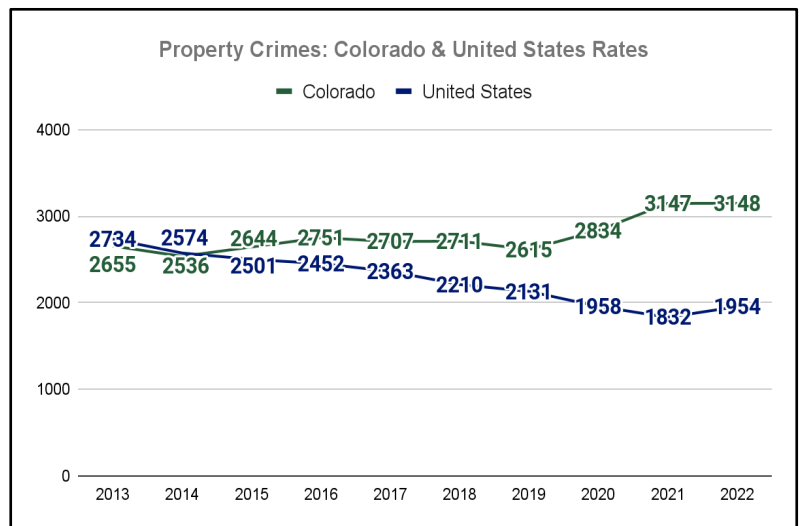
The property crime rate in Colorado increased by 19% from 2013 (2,655.0) to 2022 (3,148.0) (Table 7 and Figure 7). Conversely, the US's property crime rate decreased by 29% from 2013 (2,734.0) to 2022 (1,954.0). Property crimes in Colorado have steadily increased over the past 10 years (2013-2022) while the US rate has steadily decreased during the same time frame. Between 2013 and 2022, the annual property crime rate in Colorado dropped three times, while the US rate dropped by varying amounts every year except 2022. While the Colorado rate was flat between 2021 and 2022, the US rate increased by 7% in 2022. Still, the US rate in 2022 (1,954.0) was nearly 40% below the Colorado rate (3,148.0). For reference purposes, Appendix Tables A & B at the end of this report display the number of property crimes per year.

Table 7. US and Colorado property crime rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	2,655.0	-	2,734.0	-
2014	2,536.0	-4%	2,574.0	-6%
2015	2,644.0	4%	2,501.0	-3%
2016	2,751.0	4%	2,452.0	-2%
2017	2,707.0	-2%	2,363.0	-4%
2018	2,711.0	0%	2,210.0	-6%
2019	2,615.0	-4%	2,131.0	-4%
2020	2,834.0	8%	1,958.0	-8%
2021	3,147.0	11%	1,832.0	-6%
2022	3,148.0	0.03%	1,954.0	7%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 7. US and Colorado property crime rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Burglary

Burglary is defined as “the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. To classify an offense as a burglary, the use of force to gain entry need not have occurred.”

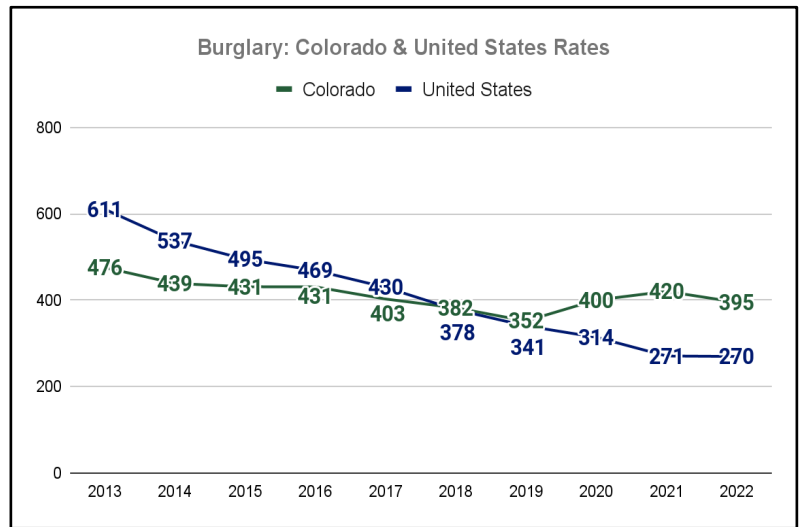
Burglary rates in Colorado decreased by 17% from 2013 (475.6) to 2022 (395.2), and the US rate decreased by 56% from 2013 (610.5) to 2022 (269.8) (Table 8 and Figure 8). Colorado’s burglary rate (382.3) surpassed the US rate (378.0) in 2018 and that trend continued through 2022. The Colorado rate has fluctuated a bit over the past decade while the US rate has steadily decreased.

Table 8. US and Colorado burglary rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	475.6	-	610.5	-
2014	438.8	-8%	537.2	-12%
2015	431.1	-2%	494.7	-8%
2016	430.8	-0.1%	468.9	-5%
2017	402.7	-7%	429.7	-8%
2018	382.3	-5%	378.0	-12%
2019	351.9	-8%	340.5	-10%
2020	400.3	14%	314.2	-8%
2021	420.4	5%	270.9	-14%
2022	395.2	-6%	269.8	-0.4%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 8. US and Colorado burglary rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Larceny/Theft

Larceny/theft is defined as “the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Attempted larcenies are included in offense totals. Embezzlement, confidence games, forgery, check fraud, etc., are excluded.”

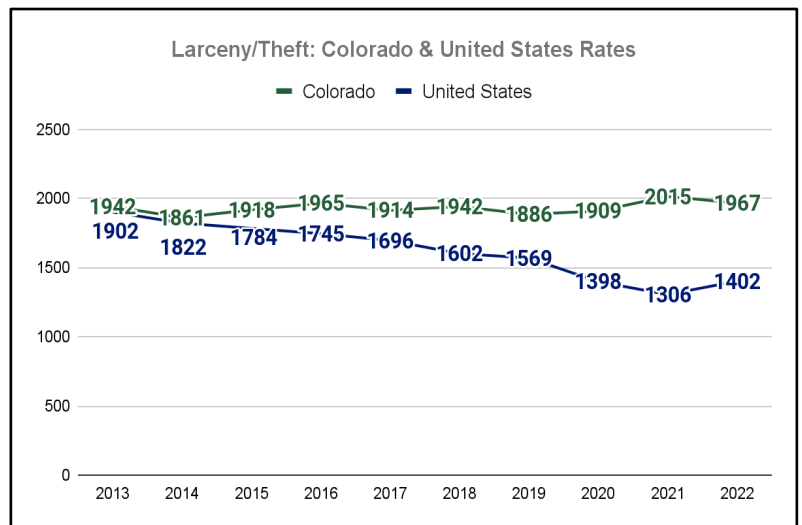
Larceny/theft has the highest crime rate for both Colorado and the US, relative to other crime types in this report. The larceny/theft trend has been relatively stable in Colorado from 2013 to 2022 with an average of 1,931.8 per 100,000 population, fluctuating from a low of 1,861.4 in 2014 to a high of 2,014.5 in 2021 (Table 9 and Figure 9). However, there was a downward trend in the national rate during the same period, from 1,901.9 in 2013 to 1,401.9 in 2022. There was a 1% increase in Colorado between 2013 (1,941.8) and 2022 (1,966.7). In the US, there was a 26% decrease between 2013 (1,901.9) and 2022 (1,401.9).

Table 9. US and Colorado larceny/theft rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	1,941.8	-	1,901.9	-
2014	1,861.4	-4%	1,821.5	-4%
2015	1,918.4	3%	1,783.6	-2%
2016	1,965.2	2%	1,745.4	-2%
2017	1,913.7	-3%	1,695.5	-3%
2018	1,941.9	1%	1,601.6	-6%
2019	1,885.5	-3%	1,569.2	-2%
2020	1,909.3	1%	1,398.0	-11%
2021	2,014.5	6%	1,305.5	-7%
2022	1,966.7	-2%	1,401.9	7%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 9. US and Colorado larceny/theft rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor vehicle theft (MVT) is defined as “the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle,” which includes “sport utility vehicles, automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles,” but excludes “farm equipment, bulldozers, airplanes, construction equipment, or watercraft such as motorboats, sailboats, houseboats, or jet skis. Taking a motor vehicle for temporary use by persons with lawful access is excluded from this definition.”

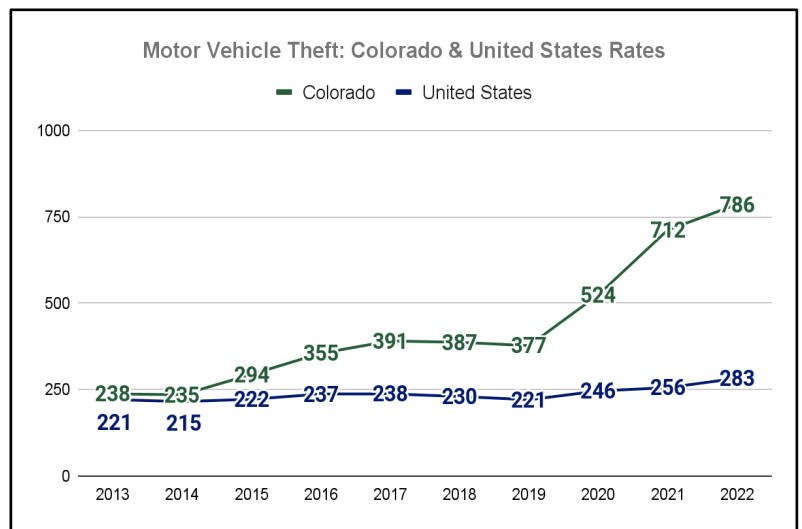
MVT increased 64% in Colorado from 2013 (237.6) to 2017 (390.7) (Table 10 and Figure 10). Starting in 2020, a spike in MVT occurred in Colorado (+39%) that continued in both 2021 (+36%) and 2022 (+10%). From 2013 (237.6) to 2022 (785.7), the 231% increase in Colorado’s MVT rate was eight times the 28% increase in the US rate during the same period (221.3 and 282.7, respectively). The 2022 rate for Colorado (785.7) was almost three times the 2022 rate for the US (282.7).

Table 10. US and Colorado MVT rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	237.6	-	221.3	-
2014	235.2	-1%	215.4	-3%
2015	294.0	25%	222.2	3%
2016	355.2	21%	237.3	7%
2017	390.7	10%	237.7	0.2%
2018	386.9	-1%	230.2	-3%
2019	377.2	-3%	220.8	-4%
2020	524.3	39%	246.0	11%
2021	711.6	36%	255.9	4%
2022	785.7	10%	282.7	10%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 10. US and Colorado MVT rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



Arson

Arson is defined as “any willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.”

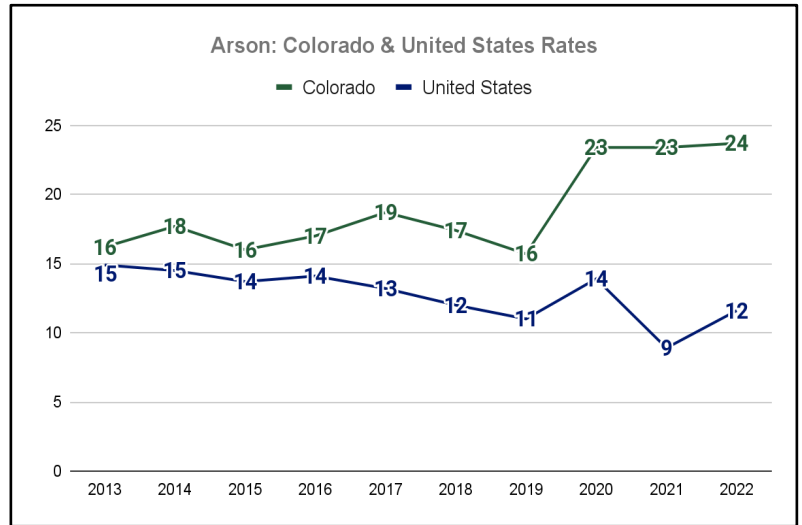
The arson rate in Colorado remained relatively steady from 2013 to 2019, ranging from 16.2 in 2013 to 15.7 in 2019 (Table 11 and Figure 11). Though lower in rate, a similar pattern occurred across the US during the same period, ranging from 14.9 in 2013 to 11.0 in 2019. However, in 2020, Colorado and US rates increased with the Colorado rate rising 49% and the US rate increasing by 26%. From 2020 through 2022, the Colorado rate stabilized at this higher level (23.4) while the US rate has fluctuated at a generally lower rate (13.9, 8.9, and 11.6). Overall, there was a 46% increase in the arson rate from 2013 (16.2) to 2022 (23.7) in Colorado, but a 22% reduction in the arson rate from 2013 (14.9) to 2022 (11.6) in the US.

Table 11. US and Colorado arson rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.

Year	CO Rate	Colorado % Change*	US Rate	US % Change
2013	16.2	-	14.9	-
2014	17.7	9%	14.5	-3%
2015	16.0	-10%	13.7	-6%
2016	17.0	6%	14.1	3%
2017	18.7	10%	13.2	-6%
2018	17.4	-7%	12.0	-9%
2019	15.7	-10%	11.0	-8%
2020	23.4	49%	13.9	26%
2021	23.4	0%	8.9	-36%
2022	23.7	1%	11.6	30%

* Percent (%) change refers to an annual change.

Figure 11. US and Colorado arson rate per 100K population, 2013-2022.



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Appendix

The source for all data in tables and figures in the Appendix is Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime Data Explorer* (retrieved November 15, 2023).

Table A. Total violent and property crime numbers in Colorado, 2013-2022.

Year	Violent Crimes	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Property Crimes	Burglary	Larceny/Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2013	13,979	151	2,878	3,120	7,830	140,839	24,352	103,121	12,516	850
2014	14,316	132	2,992	3,006	8,186	136,319	22,891	99,942	12,542	944
2015	15,074	146	3,306	3,250	8,372	144,293	22,824	104,642	15,963	864
2016	16,803	185	3,610	3,524	9,484	152,715	22,971	109,381	19,445	918
2017	18,384	206	3,996	3,822	10,360	154,270	22,159	109,366	21,697	1,048
2018	20,080	202	4,371	3,807	11,700	157,452	21,502	112,968	21,990	992
2019	19,443	217	4,103	3,728	11,395	154,070	19,881	111,421	21,870	898
2020	21,599	283	3,957	4,009	13,350	171,028	23,127	115,795	30,748	1,358
2021	23,952	320	4,167	4,337	15,128	188,311	23,407	122,256	41,288	1,360
2022	24,019	318	3,588	4,320	15,793	188,914	22,374	119,556	45,599	1,385

Table B. Total violent and property crime numbers in the US, 2013-2022.

Year	Violent Crimes	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Property Crimes	Burglary	Larceny/Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2013	276,861	3,325	38,585	72,207	162,744	2,486,419	537,645	1,761,313	173,618	13,843
2014	279,184	3,350	39,955	68,486	167,393	2,395,984	482,580	1,723,200	176,796	13,408
2015	296,746	3,933	44,098	70,753	177,962	2,406,602	462,617	1,741,512	188,882	13,591
2016	317,907	4,441	47,931	73,385	192,150	2,488,911	462,581	1,790,571	221,690	14,069
2017	332,414	4,728	52,833	72,426	202,427	2,513,538	442,260	1,817,763	239,331	14,184
2018	371,196	4,943	59,983	78,638	227,632	2,624,698	435,239	1,905,251	270,028	14,180
2019	454,218	6,555	69,507	96,016	282,140	3,111,473	496,579	2,282,174	316,334	16,386
2020	565,882	10,314	75,050	105,911	374,607	3,542,734	545,621	2,553,186	420,952	22,975
2021	769,182	15,004	104,573	133,516	516,089	4,498,330	639,728	3,227,622	601,453	29,527
2022	809,381	15,047	102,947	150,107	541,280	5,049,721	673,261	3,624,208	721,852	30,400